ELECTRICITY HEATS HOMES EFFICIENTLY

The average American Gold Medallion Home is being heated electrically today for $113 a year. The range cost is from $75 in the South to $284 in the North—according to a recent survey.

This cost is just slightly higher than other fuels in some areas and equal in others. It is expected to remain comparable within the next decade as the number of homes heated with electricity soars from 370,000 to three million.

Building trades authorities estimate that by 1970, 40 per cent of all homes in the country will be heated with electricity.

The survey of users today was conducted by the trade publication, "Electric Heat and Air Conditioning," and gave this breakdown from the four sections of the country: Northeast, $284 a year; South, $75; Midwest, $205; and West, $168.

Installation of a resistance heating system in a Northern state costs as low as five per cent of the total building cost.

With electricity, there is no furnace, no heater room, no radiators, flues, ducts, pipes or chimney. Added savings accrue with elimination of soot, fuel storage facilities, and yearly maintenance fees.

The electric heating system is smokeless, draft-free, noiseless, and odor-free. And, since builder must insulate this type home more completely, the house stays warmer in winter and cooler in summer.

Schools, industry and business also are turning to electric heating in growing numbers. It has meant savings for new motels where each unit is equipped with its own thermostat and the owner saves by turning down the heat when the unit is not occupied.

Electric heat has made its mark also in gas stations, loading docks, guard houses and even in gas pipeline compressor stations.

Better Late Than Never

Bisbee, Ariz.- Mrs. Mary Howe, librarian at the Bisbee library, said a man returned an overdue copy of the Works of O. Henry, and apologized for his tardiness. The book was marked due April 28, 1926.

Appomattox is a growing town.

Lamb Feeding On Increase

The business of feeding lambs is on the increase in some sections of Virginia, reports George Allen, Jr., animal husbandman at VPI.

He says that where surplus pasturage, roughage, and grains are available, many farmers have found that feeder lambs can return more dollars for the feeds they eat, than selling the feeds away from the farm. Lambs also can be used to salvage fall and winter pastures, or to clean grain or corn fields, thus converting these feeds into a marketable product.

Several methods are used for handling feeder lambs in Virginia. Some farmers buy lambs in July or August and graze them until they are ready for market. Others buy in late August, September, or early October, and use pasture and grain. Some buy in October or early November, and finish on harvested cover crops and small grain in Central, lower Piedmont and eastern Virginia. Some farmers use variations or combinations of these systems, such as selling the quick-finishing lambs off pastures, and finishing the lighter lambs on harvested feeds.

Most markets where lambs are graded start sorting out feeder lambs in July. These are light-weight, unfinished ewe and wether lambs. The good grade feeders are designated by a blue paint mark on the shoulder and generally average from 65 to 75 pounds. The utility grade feeders have a blue mark on their back and usually weigh from 50 to 70 pounds. At markets where the feeder lambs are not separated from those for slaughter, the regular good grade (red shoulders) or utility (red backed) lambs, which include ewe and wether lambs, are often bought for feeders. Cull grades are too small and too low in quality to make good feeders.

Some western feeder lambs are fed in Virginia. As compared to native feeders, the western lambs can be bought in larger groups and usually have fewer parasites and less disease, may finish more uniformly, but usually cost more.

Since lambs are fed for a short time and make a relatively small increase in weight, the feeder must anticipate the price per pound paid for the feeder lambs. For a safe margin, most farmers expect to sell for three weeks, or until they are free from parasites. Then give an individual dose each three weeks to a month until the lambs are sold. Free access to a phenothiazine-salt mixture will help control parasites.

Yellow corn and alfalfa hay is the standard ration for feeding lambs. From 350 to 400 pounds of corn and the same amount of hay are needed to make 100 pounds of gain. An average of 1¼ to 1½ pounds of grain, and the same amount of hay, should produce about 1/3 pound of gain per day. A feeding period of 80 to 120 days should show a gain of 25 to 35 pounds. About 120 pounds of hay and 120 pounds of grain will be needed to finish the average feeder lamb under feed lot conditions.

Barley may be used to replace all or part of the corn, but is worth about 90% as much as corn based on the amount of feed needed to produce 100 pounds of gain. Oats are worth about 80% as much as corn, but will require a longer feeding period. Wheat is usually too expensive to feed, but if wheat is used it should not form over one-half of the grain ration.

SILAGE GOOD WAY OF USING CORN

Virginia dairymen could profitably feed a lot more silage than they now do.

And, says Kenneth Loope, farm management specialist at VPI, making silage is a good way to use part of the corn crop.

He points out that three tons of corn silage can replace one ton of hay in a dairy ration, if as much as 10 pounds of hay is fed per cow per day. Because of weather conditions, much of the hay produced this year is of poor quality, since it is fairly simple to maintain quality in corn silage, Loope suggests replacing some of the hay with increased feeding of silage.

Silage nutrients generally cost about 1/3 less to produce, than do hay nutrients.

Cows can efficiently use 70 pounds or more per day of quality silage. For a 200-day feeding period this will amount to seven tons per cow—almost twice the amount of silage being fed to the average Virginia cow on test at the present time. Additional silage may be provided for summer feeding without increasing the silo space needed, since silos can be filled with small grain, alfalfa, or grass silage, and be empty when needed for corn silage in the fall.

Loope says several farmers this year are planning on emergency storage of silage above ground. The silage can be placed in piles and covered with black plastic film. The film runs up to 32 feet wide and a strip 32 by 100 feet will cover 200 tons or more. The secret to success in storing silage in this manner is in keeping out the air. A trench is dug around the pile and the edges of the plastic sheet are placed in the trench, and the soil is replaced and packed. Only the silage that can be harvested in one day should be placed in each pile since it will heat during the night.

It is necessary to keep the cover from being punctured. Keep the plastic tight during the settling to prevent the wind from whipping and damaging it.

When the pile is opened, a weighted rope or tire can be kept on the cover at the open end to prevent air from spoiling the sides of the pile as it is fed. Loope says the cost of the cover can run up to 40¢ per ton per year, when the cover is used only one year. The cost may be halved if care is taken in using the cover so it can be used the second year.

PRUSSIC ACID POSIONING DANGER TO LIVESTOCK

New growth in either sudan grass or sorghum after a first frost is extremely high in prussic acid content and is very dangerous to livestock, warn specialists at VPI.

They say many questions are already being received this year from farmers about the use of sudan or sorghum which has been frosted, and the advice is to "approach with caution."

The safest way to save frosted or frozen sudan or sorghum is to make silage of it. Generally, enough prussic acid is lost in a gaseous form during the ensilaging process, and as the silage is removed from the silo and fed, to make it safe for livestock.

It is not advisable, however, to let the animals self-feed from the silo which has been filled with frosted sudan or sorghum. If the silage is questionable, farmers are advised to send a sample to VPI biochemistry laboratories for testing. County agents can give information on the correct procedure for sending the samples.

Do not let animals graze frosted or frozen sudan or sorghum stubble until it is dead and thoroughly cured, the specialists advise.

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Every room of a Medallion Home and every person in it is "on the beam" when the radio - intercom takes over as the electrical control center of the home.

This amazing device serves the home in two distinct ways: As entertainment, the radio pipes music, drama and information to any and every part of the house where a remote speaker is located; as an intercom, it utilizes its magic beams to bring every station area of the house to the ear and attention of the family, the busy homemaker in particular.

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Lighting Creates Mood In Medallion Homes

Home buyers are recognizing more and more the value of good lighting inside and outside a home. They want to "decorate" with light, to use fixtures, and floodlights, and dimmers to display their homes to the best advantage, to create a mood rather than a monotony in and around their homes. Through the intensive nationwide Medallion Home Program, the building industry is placing added emphasis on lighting, along with other qualities of electrical excellence.

Bronze and gold Medallions displayed homes with built-in electrical value provide an easy-to-spot symbol of quality for the home buying public.

Basic requirements for the Medallion emblem include the provision that the lighting "shall conform to the requirements recommended by the American Home Lighting Institute in its '1958 Minimum Light for Living Standards.'"

In line with this program, home buyers now have the widest choice ever in lighting possibilities.

Fixtures which concentrate light actually can be used as effective room dividers. Flourescent lamps under frosted glass tops can be trained on walls from bookcases or shelves.

Floodlamps in swivel reflectors can be aimed at draperies covering window walls and, by controlling these with dimmers, variations in the appearance and "feeling" of a room can be obtained. An almost infinite variety of lighting effects can be achieved from the dimmer pontzel, from off-whites to blazing sunset colors.

Pull-down fixtures provide just the right illumination over desks, telephone stands, or hobby benches.

The choice of fixtures of kitchen illumination is almost unlimited, including lights for areas under cupboards and over sinks, for hoods over ovens or cooking surfaces, or behind soffits.

By utilizing lighting in the garden or patio, many families have found that they can enjoy additional hours of outdoor work or play virtually every day of the year.

Lighting in accordance with Medallion Home standards has become important for builders and contractors; they have learned to show prospective home owners that good use of lighting and appliances make it possible for them to enjoy preparing and eating outdoor meals, watching television, reading in cool comfort, listening to hi-fi, dancing and engaging in sports.

Menagerie Barber Shop

Hastings, Mich.- Hastings children don't mind going to Pete Bachelder's barber shop for a haircut.

Among the pets Bachelder has for them to play with are a fox, a deodorized skunk, three horned owls, a flying squirrel and a hamster.

Navy holds back funds for Polaris submarines.

Maine Democrats sheer sweeping victory.

Eight Senators press for shift in foreign aid.

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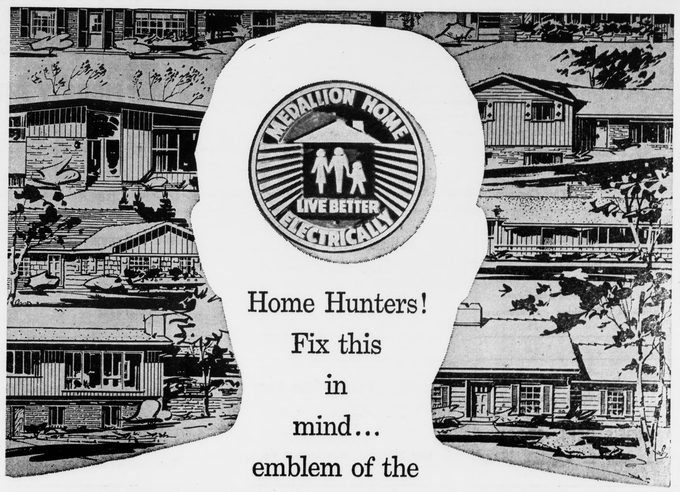

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